

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAM-01 SSO-00 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

S E C R E T JIDDA 4832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, SA

SUBJECT: UNANNOUNCED TRIP OF SAUD BIN FAISAL TO DAMASCUS

1. UNDER SECRETARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANSOURI INFORMED ME THIS MORNING THAT PRINCE SAUD, HIS MINISTER, HAD DEPARTED FOR DAMASCUS THIS MORNING AND THAT HIS TRIP WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY UNLESS IT CAME TO ATTENTION OF THE MEDIA.

2. THIS INFORMATION LED US INTO DISCUSSION OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS IN LEBANON, WHICH MANSOURI INDICATED WAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO SAUDI GOVERNMENT. HE IMPLIED THEY ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT COURSE SYRIANS WILL PURSUE IN FUTURE, BUT IT OBVIOUS THAT SAUDIS NOT SATISFIED WITH PRESENT STATE OF THEIR OWN EFFORTS TO BRING SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS CLOSER TOGETHER.

3. CAUTIONING ME THAT I SHOULD NOT QUOTE WHAT HE SAID AS "VIEWPOINT OF SAUDI GOVERNMENT," MANSOURI THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT PLO SHOULD REVERT TO ITS FORMER STATUS IN LEBANON, MEANING IT SHOULD REDUCE ITS SIZE IN TERMS OF ARMED ELEMENTS AND REVERT TO NON-INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL LIFE OF LEBANON. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT PLO CONNECTIONS WITH LEBANESE MOSLEM LEFTIS ELEMENTS, AND HE REMARKED THAT IF MOSLEM LEFT IN LEBANON IS NOT AMENABLE TO EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATION AND MERELY WISHES TO REARM AND REGROUP, THEN IT WOULD PERHAPS BE BETTER TO LET MILITARY

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EVENTS TAKE THEIR COURSE. WHEN I ASKED HIM IF HE UNDERSTOOD

THAT MIGHT MEAN PLO WOULD BE DESTROYED, HE SHRUGGED AND ASKED, "WHAT OTHER SOLUTION IS THERE?". I SAID I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF HE WOULD LET US KNOW WHEN HE COULD ABOUT SYRIAN INTENTIONS WHEN PRINCE SAUD RETURNS. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO BE HELPFUL.

4. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS BEIRUT.
PORTER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BEIRUT.

SECRET

NNN

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